(b) The Chairmen and Managing Directors of the nationalised banks are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980. These Schemes provide that the Chairmen and Managing Directors of nationalised banks shall be eligible for re-appointment. Decision in each case of re-appointment of a Chairman and Managing Director is taken after a careful consideration of all relevant factors, including the performance of the bank concerned under his stewardship.

Review of safety measures in nuclear power plants

1950. DR. H.P. SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 955 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th November, 1986 and to state:

(a) whether the task force set up by Government to review the safety measures and performance of the nuclear power plants, especially after the Chernobyl disaster has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its main findings;

(c) what specific new measures Government propose to take in this regard;

(d) whether Government have contacted the USSR and sought information to ward off the likelihood of such an accident in this country; and

(e) what are the implications of such additional measures in terms of cost of money and delay in implementation of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) A draft report prepared by the Task Force is ready. It has been found that a Chernobyl type nuclear accident is not considered a possibility in our nuclear power plants.

(c) No new major measures are considered necessary. However, additional measures to further improve and strengthen the safety culture in the operation and maintenance practices are being considered.

(d) All information made available by the USSR, at meetings held in Vienna, under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has been studied by Government.

(e) Additional measures that are being considered are not expected to have significant implications in terms of cost or in the schedules of implementaiion of the projects.

Launching of satellites during the Seventh Five-Year Plan period

1951. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the programmes, if any, drawn up to build and launch more satellites during the current five year plan period;

(b) whether the launching stations are also being developed in India; and

(c) if not, from which countries the Indian satellites are proposed to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The main thrust in the Seventh Five Year Plan

is to rapidly place satellite-based domestic broadcasting, communications and remote sensing on an operational basis and to develop indigenous launch systems for launching both communications and remote sensing satellites. The major projects under implementation or proposed to be taken up in the Seventh Plan under the S&T Sector include the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) Project for launching low-earth orbiting satellites of the 150kg. class; the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) for launching Remote Sensing satellites of the 900kg. class in polar sun-synchronous orbits to support the National Natural Resources Management Systems (NNRMS); initiation of the development of the Cryogenic Engine and Stage for the Geo-synchronous Launch Vehicle, capable of launching INSAT satellites into geo-stationary orbit; the Streched Rohini Series of Satellites (SROSS) for carrying scientific payloads; the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite and the INSAT-II Test spacecraft which will lead the way to operational second generation INSAT-II spacecraft during the 1990's. Some advanced, satellite-based scientific experiments may also be carried out.

In the INSAT operational sector, the two-satellite INSAT-I system will be completed by the launch on Ariane Launch Vehicle, of INSAT-IC spacecraft, procured from abroad; another satellite of the series. INSAT-ID also procured from abroad is expected to be launched in 1989 to replace the INSAT-IB at the end of its life.

(b) and (c) A National Rocket Launching Range already exists in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The launch site for launching ASLV rockets and SROSS statellite is already operational. The launch site for launching PSLV Rockets is expected to be ready in two years, well before the scheduled launch of the first PSLV in 1989-90. The approved perspective plan for Space Research and Development activities for the decade 1980—90 includes establishment of a new satellite launch range, if necessary, in cooperation with other national agencies. Studies in regard to the establishment of an additional satellite launch range and its technical characteristics are underway. The Indian Satellites which will be launched from abroad are the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites, IRS-IA and IRS-IB, the INSAT-IC and ID, and the INSAT-II Test Spacecraft. The Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-IA) will be launched by a Soviet Launcher from a launch site in the Soviet Union in 1987. The INSAT-IC Satellite will be launched by a French launch vehicle, Ariane, in early 1988 from Kourou in French Guiana. Options for the other launches are still under study.

Documents on gold disposal seized from premises of smugglers

1952. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report that appeared in the Indian Express dated the 16th February, 1987 according to which the Economic Infelligence Bureau has recently seized documents on gold disposal during raids conducted on the premises of smugglers and disposal agents in Bombay;

(b) if so, the full details of the incriminating documents, unaccounted gold, jewellery, etc., seized during the saids; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government against the smugglers and agents involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 10-2-1987 an operation under the code-name 'Khukhri' was organised at Bombay by the Economic Intelligence Bureau in close co-ordination with the Directorate of